



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit  
With God in the City, Towns, Villages and rural areas

29/24 Charity Comm'n No 1133792

## Worship at home for the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

### Pray without ceasing – don't give up!

Welcome to worship, whatever the time, or the day, or the place that you come to enter this act of worship, welcome. May the eyes of our hearts lift up to seek the Lord, our help and refuge, our creator and life giver.

Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

### StF N°18 – Be still and know that I am God

- 1 Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.
- 2 I am the Lord who saves and heals.  
I am the Lord who saves and heals.  
I am the Lord who saves and heals.
- 3 In you, O Lord, I put my trust.  
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.  
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

*Anonymous Based on Psalm 46:10-11*

### *Let us pray.*

Lord, My God,

From my head to my toes with all my soul, I  
bring my worship offering.

I long to love you with all my heart full of your  
strength.

I long to love you with all my strength full of  
your grace.

I long to love you with all my mind full of your  
goodness.

I long to love you with all my soul full of your  
peace.

May the words from mouth be full of praise  
that rise to your throne.

May I be open and brave to follow as you  
lead me in the way of holiness.

May all areas of my life be worshipful and be  
set on seeking only after you. Amen.

### StF N°51 – Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

<sup>1</sup>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

<sup>2</sup>Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

*chorus*

<sup>3</sup>Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*chorus*

Thomas O, Chisholm (1866-1960)

### Reading **Jeremiah 31: 27 – 34**

#### *Let us pray.*

Light of the world, you shine in the darkness  
and illuminate our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers as we  
confess our sins.

We have resisted your reign in our hearts and  
not served you as you instructed, nor loved  
as you commanded.

We are sorry and turn away from all that is  
evil. Forgive us our sins and by your grace,  
place our feet on your path towards holiness  
that we would walk in your ways.

May we know the forgiveness and assurance  
of Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ  
who died in our place for the forgiveness of  
our sins. Who was raised from the dead, who

ascended into heaven and is seated at the righthand of the Father. Amen.

*'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.'*

Thank you, Jesus, for making your dwelling among us. You are the Word our God, you write your law of love upon our hearts.

Thank you for giving us faith of substance. Faith that when placed in you, the living Word, its size does not matter because your weakness is greater than our strength.

Thank you for your gift of grace which enables us in our perseverance of living out our faith and pursuing the way of holiness.

Develop in us a character which reflects You Jesus, our Lord and Saviour and leads to hope.

And thank you for giving us hope which does not disappoint, hope that transforms our present circumstance, and hope upon which we can always depend.

Thank you, Jesus for calling us to pray in your name. For this gift of prayer, and praying without ceasing, we praise your holy name. Amen.

### StF N°254 – Seek ye first the kingdom of God

<sup>1</sup>Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you;  
Allelu-, alleluia:  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,*  
*Allelu-, alleluia!*

<sup>2</sup>Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and ye shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu-, alleluia:

<sup>3</sup>We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;  
Allelu-, alleluia:

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

### Reading **Luke 18: 1 – 8**

#### **Reflection**

***Pray without ceasing – don't give up!***

Pomegranates', how do you eat yours? Recently I enjoyed a pomegranate from the local greengrocers. As I stood preparing this beautiful fruit by carefully deseeding the red jewels and remembered how growing up, we would eat these with a sewing pin, one jewel at a time. Whichever of these ways you choose to eat this fruit they both require the same thing, perseverance.

Perseverance is the theme that runs through are readings. Being a prophet in Old Testament times particularly, popularity didn't often come with the call that God placed upon you to deliver his message. Jeremiah was most definitely unpopular and had a rough time. He was arrested, during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem he was imprisoned. He got chucked into a cistern and left to die, he sees his unpopular prophecy take place as God as shown him with Jerusalem falling to the Babylonians and to top it all off, he is taken to Egypt by force. And yet, amidst the stark warnings, we come to these verses and a message of hope. Jeremiah persevered through all that he endured and remained obedient to speaking that which God placed in his mouth speak.

In this passage from Jeremiah, chapter 31, we can see the perseverance of God which speaks of a sure hope that will come through the steadfastness of God who will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and the generations that follow. From a time of being uprooted and torn down to being built up and planted, from a time of experiencing destruction and disaster, to being re-established. The Lord declares that this will be transformed through a new covenant relationship that will see people knowing God. That this relationship with God will be established through His law being put in the minds and written on their hearts. That people will become mindful, thoughtful, and more aware of God's law and to the point that it will be the life within them. It will be that which connects people with God.

Why does God want us to have such a connected relationship with Him? Love. God loves you. God so loved the world that he gave his one and Only Son. We love because he

first loved us. We could go on to reference all that reminds us of how God love us.

In our gospel reading we read how Jesus taught to come to God, showing how the perseverance of a widow with only justice and her repetitive petitioning of the unjust Judge eventually got the response and action that the widow required to get justice. This unjust Judge does not compare to God who loves us.

Earlier in the Luke, Jesus points out that 'If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' (Luke 11:13)

When we pray and pray like Jesus taught, we come to our Father in heaven who knows us better than we know ourselves; who knows what we need and who loves us. We have a new covenant, a relationship with God our Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ because God made a way. Jesus paid the price for our sins upon the cross, and through Christ our redeemer we have forgiveness. We still come to God in repentance and confess our sins. We can share the words of Paul in Galatians, 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.' (*Galatians 2:20*).

In the prologue of John's gospel, we read that the Word was and is God. That Jesus the Word of God became flesh. Therefore, we must read the Old Testament and New Testament with the lens of knowing Jesus is the living Word, who came to fulfil the law and the prophets. We must look back and look ahead with proper recognition of the person of Jesus Christ who lives in us. When we die to sin and live for Christ, Christ lives in us.

Today I want us all to be encouraged to pray without ceasing, and don't give up. There is no denying the darkness which we are witnessing in the world. The speed in which we get to know about world affairs and the volume of shocking, upsetting and deeply concerning news is overwhelming. But let us turn to God in response, pray without ceasing, and don't give up. Our own personal circumstances can sometimes be overwhelming too, we perhaps offer love, care and support to those we know

and love. I want to us all to be encouraged to pray without ceasing and don't give up.

In our relationship with our loving God, we can come to God in all circumstances, in joy and sorrow. So, in perseverance let us pray without ceasing and don't give up, because God never gives up on us, on you. And as we continue through perseverance, as we repent from our sins finding salvation in Jesus and strength in the Holy Spirit, may we find a character that is fruitful with the Fruit of the Spirit and live in the Hope of God that does not disappoint.

Unlike our perseverance with eating pomegranates that are in season from October to January, perseverance in faith is always in season. Amen.

### StF N°528 – Pray, without ceasing, pray

<sup>1</sup> Pray, without ceasing, pray,  
your captain gives the word;  
his summons cheerfully obey,  
and call upon the Lord:  
to God your every want  
in instant prayer display;  
pray always; pray, and never faint;  
pray, without ceasing, pray!

<sup>2</sup> In fellowship, alone,  
to God with faith draw near,  
approach his courts, besiege his throne  
with all the powers of prayer:  
go to his temple, go,  
nor from his altar move;  
let every house his worship know,  
and every heart his love.

<sup>3</sup> Pour out your souls to God,  
and bow them with your knees,  
and spread your hearts and hands abroad,  
and pray for Zion's peace;  
your guides and kindred bear  
for ever on your mind;  
extend the arms of mighty prayer,  
and grasp all humankind.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

### Prayers for others.

*Responding to God's loving invitation to cry out in prayer, day or night, no matter the season, nor the state of our emotions, let us come to God in prayer.*

### *Let us pray.*

Loving God, you are compassionate and merciful, we do as Jesus taught us, we watch and pray.

We seek your kingdom brought in with Christ Jesus our Saviour and pray for your will to be done on earth as in heaven.

When we turn on the news, we are met by a world that is broken, hurting, suffering, and bruised by those who choose the path of evil.

Lord, we pray for healing, that through Jesus we would see people reconciled to you and transformed by your grace and peace.

We see the impact of our poor treatment of the earth. How our neglect of taking care of your creation as led to climate change and damaging extremes of weather conditions.

Lord, we pray for the healing of the earth. We pray for those who are living with the consequences of the neglect of others and for a stop to the recklessness of disregarding how destruction sows' destruction.

We see anxiety, fear, and insecurity grip nations of the world as the cost-of-crises births uncertainty daily without any signs of help or support. We too cannot escape this crisis.

Lord, we pray for the healing of society in the nations of the world. We pray for ambition to see humanity reach new heights in striving to share resources to build each other up in love.

We experience loneliness, feeling lost and disregarded. We carry bereavement and trauma. We live with the effect of the pandemic, bearing the scares of its impact.

Lord, we pray for all those who are living in these places of sorrow and pain. May your peace be known in their hearts. May your comfort and strength be found in knowing your holy presence with them.

We hold concern for those whom we know and whom we love. We sometimes see relationships in tension and frayed. We see frustrations and the challenges that are faced.

Lord, we pray for those whom we have prayed for so many times before. May they know the

life changing and sustaining power of your love, mercy, and joy.

We ask all these prayers and the prayers spoken from the quite of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, the champion of our faith. Amen.

### **StF N°662 – Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?**

<sup>1</sup> Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow?*

<sup>2</sup> Will you use your voice; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent?

Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent?

<sup>3</sup> In your city streets will you be God's heart?

Will you listen to the voiceless?

Will you stop and eat, and when friendship start, will you share your faith with the faithless?

<sup>4</sup> Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace the pain and sorrow.*

*We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.*

Jacqueline G. Jones  
Words and Music: © 2008 Jacqueline G. Jones www.spiritualsongs.co.uk

### **A Blessing for perseverance.**

May we go strengthen by God to journey in perseverance and the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

May we go into the world to live our lives transformed and shaped by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who guides and equips us.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with us always. Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
Amen. Thanks be to God.